

**Meeting Minutes
Virginia Board of Education
Charter School Committee**

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mrs. Isis Castro, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.. Committee members Mr. Rob Kropicka and Mrs. Betsy Beamer attended. Also present were Board members Mrs. Eleanor Saslaw, Mrs. Ella Ward, Mr. David Johnson, and Dr. Virginia McLaughlin and Dr. Patricia Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Dr. Gerard Robinson, Secretary of Education, and Laura Fornash, Deputy Secretary of Education, attended and were recognized by Mrs. Castro.

The committee first heard presentations from six experts in the field of charter schools:

- Mr. James W. Dyke, Jr., Edison Learning
- Mr. Todd Ziebarth, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
- Mr. Andrew Broy, Illinois Charter School Network
- Mr. Curtiss Stancil, Edison Learning
- Mr. Randy Dowell, KIPP Foundation
- Mr. Don Sofer, Lexington Institute

Mr. Stancil and Mr. Dowell provided written copies of their comments and they are appended to these minutes.

After the initial presentations, the committee and the panel discussed several topics, including the following:

Applications – quality, components, review and approval
Importance of strong leadership for the school
Governing boards
Role of community and parents and how to ensure their involvement
Teacher and staff recruitment
Sound policies regarding diversity
Waivers
Funding, public and private
Role of local government
Role of pre-kindergarten

A binder of materials was provided to the committee members at the beginning of the meeting. Mrs. Castro asked that each member review the work plan and other materials in the binder and provide her with any comments members they may have. She also indicated that she would like to visit some of the best charter schools and invited members of the committee to join her.

Mrs. Castro announced that the next meeting of the Charter School Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at a time to be announced later.

The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Castro at 4:15 p.m.